

Appl. No. 09/864,132

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Amendment/Response

Reply to Office action of 30 January 2003

R' con'd.

4. (original) An electric lamp as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the coating additionally comprises a white pigment.

5. (newly added) An electric lamp as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the pigment is electrostatically deposited on the inside of the light-transmitting bulb.

REMARKS/DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1 through 5 are pending in the application.

Claims 1 through 4 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Czeiler et al. (US patent 4,421,803) (hereinafter 'Czeiler') in view of Jansen et al. (US patent 5,766,336) (hereinafter 'Jansen').

Czeiler discloses a glass envelope for electric light sources including a thin glass matrix layer in which pigment grains are embedded. A preferred pigment is titanium dioxide but various cadmium-based pigments for decorative purposes are also mentioned.

Jansen discloses various oxide nitride compounds of the same general formulas as those set forth in Applicants' claim 1, and states that they are suitable for use as pigments, and for coloring glazes which can be baked at temperatures below 700°C (col. 7, lines 39, 55-57).

The Examiner urges that in view of the object of Jansen to develop pigments to replace cadmium-based pigments (col. 1, line 29; col. 2, line 34), it would have been obvious

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to substitute Jansen's oxide nitride pigments for the cadmium-based pigments of Czeiler.

However, an object of Czeiler's invention is improved adhesion of the pigment to the glass envelope (col. 2, lines 7-9). Thus, an important aspect of Czeiler's invention is that the pigment particles are coated with a glass-forming precursor which is later heat-treated to form a glass matrix (col. 3, lines 34-43), which matrix is solidly attached to the glass envelope (col. 2, lines 21-23).

Czeiler fails to mention a suitable glass-forming temperature, instead referring to various prior art references, including US patent 3,927,224, for specific information on the formation of the glass-forming precursors and glasses (col. 3, lines 53-65).

US patent 3,927,224 teaches that the glasses are formed at a temperature of 900°C (col. 10, line 5), fully 200°C above the maximum allowable temperature disclosed by Jansen for the oxide nitride pigments. Thus, the skilled practitioner would not be led to make the substitution urged by the Examiner.

Furthermore, even if this substitution were made, it would result in a coating of pigment particles embedded in a glass matrix, and Applicants do not rely on a glass matrix to achieve adherence of the pigment particles to the glass envelope.

In order to specifically cover this aspect of Applicants' invention, a new dependent claim 5 has been added, which calls for the pigment to be electrostatically deposited on the inside of the light-transmitting bulb. Support for this claim may be found, *inter alia*, at page 4, lines 25, 26 of the specification.

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In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application to be in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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203-329-6584

SERIAL DOCKET NO. 09/864.134 DIV. BART DOCKET SER. NO. PHDE000085
Colored electric lamp with a colored pigment containing coating

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ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF NOTED DOCUMENTS

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Pages of spec., claims & abs.		Issue Fee	<input type="checkbox"/>
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